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From the Army of the Potomac.

[Associated Press Dispatch.]

Accounts from the Army of the Potomac say a topographical reconnoitering party sent out some days ago to perfect the maps of the region north of Culpeper and along the base of the Blue Ridge as far as Sperryville and Little Washington, returned to camp on Friday.

Officers accompanying the expedition state that they encountered no Confederates in force, but fell in with several small squads of partisans, all belonging to the 6th Virginia cavalry. With the exception of farms, immediately on the lines of the principal routes, all the houses were well stored with the necessities of life, such as meats, poultry and breadstuffs, with a sufficient supply of forage to winter their scanty stock herds.

Considerable complaint has been expressed by regimental quartermasters of a present scarcity of stockings and underclothing, and attribute it to derelict contractors.

Leaves of absence are freely granted to officers and men for short periods.

Reports are prevalent in camp that Longstreet has succeeded in effecting a junction with Lee; but after due inquiry they cannot be traced to any reliable source.

Gen. B. F. Butler has issued an order in Norfolk requiring judges, justices, sheriffs, attorneys, notaries, and all officers of the law, and all persons residing in his department who therein exercise any office, hold any place of trust or calling whatever, which calls for the doing of any legal act whatever, or for the doing of any act judicial or administrative, which shall or may affect any other person than the actor and any person who shall desire to carry on any business, save manual labor for his own support, or to be heard in any court, or to have his rights of property in any way protected, to take and subscribe to an oath of allegiance and to a parole.

Since the late retrograde movement of the Army of the Potomac, many reports have been put afloat announcing the probable or the intended superseding of Gen. Meade in the command of that army. The current has now turned and it is stated that Gen. Meade will not be relieved, but retained in his present position. His report of his late advance was received several days ago, and is supposed to be satisfactory to the U. S. Government. It is said that his return to his present camp met the approval of almost every officer of his army.

The First National Bank of Newark, New Jersey, was entered on Sunday in broad daylight, the safe blown up, and the sum of three dollars obtained by the burglars, the entire contents of the safe. The rogues were not caught.

The office of the North Missouri Railroad at St. Louis was robbed of \$25,000 on Wednesday night.

U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate of the U. S. yesterday, Mr. Wilson introduced a joint resolution of thanks to Gen. Banks for his achievements at Port Hudson; and also a joint resolution of thanks to Gen. Hooker and Gen. Meade and the officers and soldiers of the Army of the Potomac. Mr. Hale introduced a bill "more effectually to repress the rebellion." Mr. Lane, of Indiana, introduced bills to amend the Enrollment act so as to strike out the \$300 commutation, and to increase the pay of the rank and file of the army. In the House of Representatives the Clerk announced the standing committees.—Mr. Morrill introduced a joint resolution authorizing the President to give the notice to Great Britain required for the termination of the Reciprocity treaty of 1854. Mr. Elijah Ward introduced a joint resolution for the appointment of commissioners to negotiate a new treaty of reciprocity with Great Britain for her North American colonies. Both the propositions were referred to the committee on Commerce. Mr. Eliot introduced a bill to establish a Bureau of Emancipation. A large number of bills were introduced, among them propositions to enable the Territories of Nebraska and Colorado to form State Governments and come into the Union; another that all the slaves in the States and Territories shall be declared free. Mr. Fernando Wood introduced resolutions requesting the President to appoint three commissioners to open negotiations with the authorities at Richmond, with a view of ending the war, which was laid on the table by a vote of 98 yeas to 59 nays.

The bill of Senator Hale, introduced into the U. S. Senate "more effectually to suppress the rebellion," "is to the effect that," hereafter, all persons within the United States of America are equal before the law, and all claims of personal service, excepting those bound on contract, and the claim of a parent to the services of a minor child and service rendered in pursuance of sentence for the punishment of crime, be forever abolished; anything in the Constitution and laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding."

The National Intelligencer of this morning says: "It is stated that the official report of Gen. McClellan of his military campaigns of 1861-2 is among the documents communicated to Congress by the Secretary of War, and is now at the Government printing office. As it is quite voluminous, it will require several weeks to print it.

The Boston Traveller states that "the authorities of a number of towns in that State propose to fill their quotas of volunteers by recruiting contrabands from Virginia and other border States, and that arrangements to this end have in several cases nearly reached completion.

The "Spiritualists" are having meetings in Washington.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Your correspondents deserve the thanks of the community for calling attention to the market and its prices. From the man who sells the embalmed turkey at \$2.50, to the woman, who with sharp voice, says of her butter, "50 cts a pound," many of the dealers seem to try who will ask the most and get the largest profits out of the buyers. Restaurant and hotel keepers have it in their power to protect the citizens, if they would refuse to yield to the extortionate demands often made for poultry and game. This is the time when "live and let live" should be the motto.—If your other correspondents have spoken for the old inhabitants of this place, let me second their motions, in behalf of those who have recently come here. A NEW COMER.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Having lately suffered from the "short measure" in oysters, I am glad that somebody has called attention to the gouging and cheating going on in that line, on the wharf. The city authorities ought undoubtedly to require of craftsmen to use fair measures, and to give good measure. Any man going on board the craft to buy oysters now, is apt "to fall into the hands of the Philistines."

ANOTHER CITIZEN.

The Illinois Supreme Court, by a decision rendered, have sustained Governor Yates's action in proroguing the Legislature last summer, Judges Walker and Breere holding that the proclamation issued by the Governor and acquiesced in by the General Assembly at the time, terminated its session on the tenth day of June.

We gave an account yesterday, of the sinking of the U. S. Monitor Weehawken, in the harbor of Charleston, during a gale. Four Assistant Engineers, and twenty-eight men were lost in her. Some letters from the fleet represent the disaster to have occurred through neglect or mismanagement—but other accounts contradict this. She is lying in five fathoms water, and attempts will be made to raise her.

The New York Journal of Commerce says "now that Mr. Etheridge's connection with the Republican party is dissolved, by the election of a successor in office, it is understood that he holds himself in readiness to take the field of argument in behalf of Gen. McClellan for the Presidency."

George Tucker, the clerk of the lower house of the Legislature, in session in this place, is a native of Vermont, but removed to this state about three years ago, and was chosen, under the provisions of the Wheeling laws, Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County, at the late election for State officers.

An order has been issued for the removal of all the Indiana soldiers in hospitals in and around Washington, Alexandria, Baltimore and Annapolis, to Indianapolis.